INFECTION PREVENTION

2-Slider Patient Transfer Sheet from Ansell
mission, eliminating cross contamination, and healthcare worker and patient safety and protection, points out Gilbert. Ansell manufactures an extensive portfolio of surgical, medical exam and specialty gloves for dental, first responders, food safety, environmental cleaning and sterile processing. We offer lab safety solutions for chemical, biological and physical hazards, including cleaningroom applications. We also offer disposable antimicrobial liners for operating room turnover kits, including disposable mops and sponges, and other safety solutions such as positioners for pressure injury prevention, patient transfer and repositioning sheets, and a variety of sharpless preventions.

Surface cleaning
Hospitals accommodate many revolving visitors, patients and staff, in and out of many rooms, and in touch with many surfaces prone to contamination—from floors, furniture, computers and more. Matt Schorrery, Chief Marketing Officer, Contec Inc.,shared a light on the numerous staff assisting with cleaning and disinfection along with the company’s pre-saturated IPA wipes and Laundry-Free, disposable microfiber used in cleaning and disinfecting clinical and patient areas.

Contec Inc.’s Premira snap pad
"The hidden heroes right now are the EVS workers and compounding pharmacists who are maintaining the cleanest environments possible during the pandemic. In patient care areas, we've increased disinfectant use. In sterile compounding, IPA and PPE top the list. More confidence in cleaning is the emerging priority. More pre-saturated solutions delivering a metered

"done" through mops and/or sponges is one example. Disinfecting chemistries which clean, disinfect and decontaminate surfaces quickly and without damaging what they’re applied to are also in heightened demand," Schorrery indicated.

Doe Riley, Senior Infection Preventionist, Clorox Healthcare, believes all staff should be responsible for maintaining clean and safe healthcare environments. She points to the new Clorox Total 360 electrostatic sprayer with Clorox Healthcare Spore Defense Cleaner Disinfectant, which is EPA approved to kill the top HAI-causing pathogens on hard, non-porous surfaces.

"It's an all hands-on deck situation in which everyone (not just the environmental services department) must do their part to ensure the environment is safe and clean for patients, visitors and staff. A recent peer-reviewed study conducted by Curtis Domsky, MD, Infectious Disease Specialist, at the University of Wisconsin, found that using Spore Defense with the Clorox Total 360 System was just as effective as bleach wipes in reducing C. difficile spores inoculated on wheelchairs, but could be applied in one-fourth of the time, providing healthcare facilities with a rapid and effective means to reduce spore contamination on surfaces like never before," Riley addressed.

As fingers touch and contaminate keyboards, Diana VanErk, National Sales Manager, Key Source International (KSI), stresses the importance of KSI’s disinfectant-enabled LinkSmart keyboard and San-Av key software.

"Maintaining clean keyboards at the healthcare desktop on a 24/7 basis will be more important than ever, now that we know how easily COVID-19 is spread and its impact on patients. Whereas traditional keyboards have breeding grounds for germs and viruses, our LinkSmart keyboard features an integrated cleaning button that enables frontline healthcare workers to temporarily disable keys for proper disinfection. Our companion software, San-Av, provides an omniscient, automated cleaning guide, scheduled cleaning, desktop push reminders and analytics that empower administrators to know the who, when and where of key cleaning. Our keyboards feature a smooth, crevice-free silicone surface that prevents collection of dirt and germs," VanErk noted.

While shoes touch and contaminate floors, Maria F. Canale, Marketing Manager, PathOSGen Solutions presents its Footwear Sanitizing Station that connects to a standard outlet, requires no additional staff and provides a visible sign of 24/7 continuous protection. A handheld wand using the company’s patented Ozone+UVC technology for sanitizing surfaces, objects and more is also in the pipeline.

"The implementation of preventative measures in practically every industry that has contact with people on a massive scale. Currently, staff members in partnership with hotels in NYC have placed the Footwear Sanitizing Station (FSS) in hotel lobbies so that healthcare workers can confidently proceed into the hotel rooms, having eliminated pathogens from the soles of their shoes. Similarly, hospitals and elderly care homes are placing the FSS at every entrance to protect the perimeter and significantly reduce the spread of pathogens that are carried into a facility. Our technology has been proven to eliminate up to 99.99% of deadly HAI-causing pathogens. Additionally, the FSS eliminated the human coronavirus from footwear in just eight seconds, in a three-part study performed by CREIM Co. Labs in Canada," Canale said.

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- Verify hand-washing effectiveness.
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INFECTION PREVENTION

help improve our compliance with USP 797 and minimize the risk of pathogens contaminating our clean room, we added to our department’s action plan the PathOGen Solutions Footwear Sanitizing Station. The station is part of our process that each employee uses prior to entering our clean room. We will continue to utilize the PathOGen Solutions Footwear Sanitizing Station in our ante room because the more tools we have to minimize risk for our patients helps us provide safer patient care.

Our air and surface samples were negative for any growth in both rooms.

No-touch room disinfection

COVID-19 and other pathogen persist and spread in operating rooms, emergency rooms, and other hospital rooms need to be turned over and cleaned quickly and thoroughly. Sarah Simmons, RN, CIC, FAIPC, Senior Director of Science, Xenex, calls out its pulsed xenon UV disinfection robots, which can deactivate pathogens and work in five-minute cycles, without damaging materials or equipment.

"Little has changed in the past 20 years in how we clean and disinfect hospitals. Studies show that less than half of surfaces in a hospital room are decontaminated when it's being cleaned and prepared for the next patient, which poses a threat to the next patient or healthcare worker in that room. The coronavirus pandemic is making it evident that more is needed to stop the spread of disease in healthcare facilities. As a result of the pandemic, we've seen increased interest in other healthcare facilities, such as urgent care centers, treatment facilities, and medical office buildings. When you're able to disinfect dozens of rooms per day (like you can with a LightStrike robot), it brings the cost down to about $1/room," Simmons stated.

She continued, "We've seen hospitals move their LightStrike robots from the OR to the emergency department so they can immediately disinfect rooms and areas where coronavirus patients are seen/treated. The LightStrike robot was recently proven to deactivate SARS-CoV-2 in two minutes. Our robots are able to quickly disinfect high-touch surfaces where pathogens can linger (bed rails, tray tables, ceiling, call buttons, grab bars, wheelchairs, etc.) that may be missed during the manual cleaning process. The Mayo Clinic published a study documenting its 47% reduction in C. diff infection rates after it began using LightStrike robots to disinfect rooms on targeted units. Other hospitals, like Baptist Health in Jacksonville, Florida, and United Hospital Center, began using their LightStrike robots to decontaminate N95 respirator masks. 3M determined that our robots' intense pulsed xenon UV light would not damage the fit or filtration of N95 respirators."

"Worried explained.

Tru-D SmartUVC robots also provide an additional layer of room cleaning and defense against infections, according to Alice Brewer, Director of Clinical Affairs, Tru-D SmartUVC.

"During outbreaks or pandemics, it is critical to strictly adhere to evidence-based practices for thorough disinfection and infection prevention. This includes manual cleaning with the addition of "no-touch" disinfection whenever possible. "No-touch" disinfection with Tru-D can also be used prior to manual cleaning to provide a cleaner environment for environmental services staff. Studies have shown that up to 50% of surfaces in healthcare settings are not properly disinfected by manual cleaning alone, which increases the risk of infection for anyone entering the room. By adding Tru-D to standard cleaning protocols, all surfaces in a room are disinfected, and the risk to the next patient and healthcare worker is decreased," Brewer expressed.

As SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, lingers on surfaces and is easily spread, cleaning and disinfecting entire rooms is critical, stressed David St. Clair, Chairman and COO, Halosil International. Disinfection solutions such as Halosil's Halo Disinfection System, which pairs dry fog delivery with HaloMist EPA Reg. No. 81336-6 disinfectant, are imperative to help decrease the possibility of infections.

"COVID-19 is highly contagious; reports state that SARS-CoV-2 can live up to three days on surfaces. To ensure the safety of workers and patients, healthcare facilities are relying on whole room disinfection solutions that can disinfect all touch-to-touch patient areas. Unlike electrostatic sprayers, which require an operator to continuously deploy the disinfectant, our system is simply turned on and dispersed in touchless mode, limiting operator exposure to deadly viruses while also eliminating the inherent risks in manual methods of disinfection that may leave some surfaces untreated. I expect tomorrow’s new normal in disinfection will extend beyond healthcare into industries such as transportation, education and gyms where infections are prone to spread," he noted. HPN

References:


